



ACADEMY of ART UNIVERSITY®

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Director Lisa Cholodenko to receive honorary doctorate at Academy of Art University's Annual Media Awards at the Castro Theatre on Friday, May 15

**For immediate release
May 7, 2015**

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The Bay Area will get a glimpse of some of the city's most exciting emerging talent in cinema and media at Academy of Art University's annual Media Awards, part awards-ceremony part film-festival, on Friday, May 15 from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., San Francisco. The night will kick off at 6pm with an Oscar-style red carpet pre-show. Admission is free.

This year's awards ceremony will honor director Lisa Cholodenko (*The Kids Are Alright*, *Laurel Canyon*), as well as aspiring filmmakers and artists, and reflects an impressive diversity of opportunity at the Academy. While recognizing students in categories such as Best Actress and Actor, Achievement in Directing, Best Original Screenplay and Best Motion Picture, the ceremony will also include awards for Achievement in Game Design, Best Branded Content, Best Commercial, and Best Music Video, among others.

Contestant work demonstrates how young San Francisco filmmakers are a visionary breed of artists, committed to creative integrity that provokes and questions the status quo. Nanako Fukui's *Between the Sun and Me*, nominated for multiple awards including Best Motion Picture and Best Original Screenplay, reveals the emotional turmoil of a transgender teenager living under the watchful eye of a conservative mother. The film was an official entry at the Palm Beach International Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival Short Corner. The documentary *The Missed Education: Finding My Identity* is candidly narrated by producer Keah Moffett, who struggles with the effects of racial stereotyping and, triggered by the trial for the officer who shot Michael Brown, poignantly confesses her pain. Also featured is Carly McCarthy's raw and touching short film *Hey Mom*, detailing her mother's road to sobriety. McCarthy holds the distinction of being a semifinalist in the Smithsonian's national Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, for which she entered her self-portrait film *Good Grief*.

Award-winning writer-producer James Egan, director of the School of Motion Pictures and Television, will be joined by pioneering broadcast journalist Jan Yanehiro, director of the School of Multimedia Communications, to host the event. They will present awards in 23 categories, selected by faculty and school directors, from a total of 101 talented nominees.

Acclaimed director Lisa Cholodenko, whose provocative film *The Kids Are All Right* garnered two Golden Globes and four Academy Award nominations, and who directed episodes of *Six*

Feet Under, High Art, and the miniseries *Olive Kitteridge*, will be presented with an honorary doctorate for her contributions to cinema. Cholodenko studied film in New York before launching her career with several celebrated films including *Laurel Canyon*. Her reputation for creating compelling pieces which push cultural boundaries, while still achieving critical success, is an example of what many Academy students aspire to.

A longtime San Francisco institution, the Academy has always embraced change within a rapidly evolving media landscape, offering an ever expanding curriculum, and giving students the chance to gain hands-on experience with the most advanced tools, technology and facilities around. Contestant work will highlight the astonishing range of student talent fostered within the Academy.

A public screening of all nominated work will run the following day at the Academy of Art University student theatre, at 79 New Montgomery Street, from 9:30am –1:30 pm and will be open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.academyart.edu/media-awards>.

About Academy of Art University

Academy of Art University, the largest private university of art and design in the United States, is educating students for the art and design jobs of the 21st century. Established in 1929, the Academy is an output-based higher education model that provides an inclusive admissions policy to all students, but imposes a rigorous curriculum that requires the students to produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates a mastery of their field in order to graduate. Students are taught by a faculty of professionals from the existing marketplace, both online and on campus in San Francisco, who provide them with an understanding of what it takes to succeed in today's business environment. The Academy's hands-on curriculum produces graduates who possess outstanding artistic and design skills—and equally as important, the ability to put those talents to work immediately after graduation. As a result, Academy graduates are ready to compete for and win the jobs of the 21st century in the fields of Acting, Advertising, Animation & Visual Effects, Architecture, Art Education, Art History, Fashion, Fashion Journalism, Fashion Styling, Fine Art, Game Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Industrial Design, Interior Architecture & Design, Jewelry & Metal Arts, Landscape Architecture, Motion Pictures & Television, Multimedia Communications, Music Production & Sound Design for Visual Media, Photography, Visual Development, Web Design & New Media and Art Teaching Credential and Writing for Film, Television & Digital Media. Academy of Art University is accredited by WASC, NASAD, Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) (BFA/MFA-IAD), NAAB (B-ARCH*, M-ARCH), and California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). *B-ARCH program in candidacy status. Visit www.academyart.edu for more information.